



CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

ITEM #WC-6

MARCH 2004 AGENDA

☒ Federal Waiver

SUBJECT

Request by **Novato Unified School District** to waive No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB); Title IV, Part A, Section 4115 (a)(1)(c) to use Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities funds to support the cost of **Get Real About Violence**, a researched-based, K-12, violence prevention program.

Waiver Number: Fed-07-2003

☒ **Action**

☒ **Consent**

RECOMMENDATION

☐ Approval ☒ Approval with conditions ☐ Denial

The district must submit a report to the Safe and Healthy Kids Program Office no later than March 2005 describing the progress made by the United Learning in evaluating the *Get Real About Violence* program. The district must submit a report to the Safe and Healthy Kids Program Office no later than March of 2006 describing the progress made by United Learning in submitting the results of the evaluation to the National Registry of Effective Programs, the University of Colorado's Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence, and/or the California Healthy Kids Resource Center, for possible designation as a Model, Blueprint, or Validated Program. The district must be willing to take part in the formal evaluation if requested. The district must also evaluate its own comprehensive prevention program in accordance with the district's approved Local Educational Agency Plan.

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION DISCUSSION AND ACTION

State Board Policy 03-01 contains guidelines for approval of applications for waiver of the NCLB requirements that Title IV funds be used for "science-based" prevention programs.

SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

This application requests a waiver so that the LEA may use the "promising" prevention program *Get Real About Violence* rather than a "science-based" prevention program as required by Title IV of NCLB. Per State Board Policy 03-01, there are three conditions, which must be satisfied before approval of the use of a "promising" prevention program rather than an already-established science-based program. Each of those conditions is listed in bold below.

Is the program innovative? and,

Does the program demonstrate substantial likelihood of success?

These two conditions, for innovation and substantial likelihood of success, are satisfied because the program has already been designated as “promising” by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration’s Center for Substance Abuse Prevention. Policy 03-01 lists the Center as one of the nationwide research groups that may recognize a new program as “science-based.”

Is there a plan and timeline for submitting the program for review and recognition?

This condition requires that the plan be reviewed by one of the nationwide research groups identified in policy 03-01, that the applicant show a commitment to supporting the scientific evaluation of the program and willingness to take part in clinical trials designed to measure program effectiveness, and that the applicant provide an annual report to the Waiver Office describing adequate progress for submitting the program for recognition as a science-based program. This waiver request meets this criterion, because the publisher, United Learning, has committed to an independent evaluation of the program and submittal to four of the independent bodies identified in Policy 03-01. Participating in clinical trials, if chosen by the independent evaluator, and providing an annual report to the Waiver Office are conditions for approval of the waiver.

Authority for Waiver: NCLB, Title IV, Part A, Section 4115(a)(3)

Local board approval date(s): 10/21/03

Period of request: August 2003 to July 2005

FISCAL ANALYSIS (AS APPROPRIATE)

Programmatic change – no fiscal impact.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Waiver request forms and supporting documents are available for inspection in the Waiver Office